



# Weed & Seed Digest

Summer Fall Edition ~ 2003

Volume 2 ~ Issue 2

## Atlanta Weed & Seed Steering Committee Members

**The Honorable Shirley Franklin**, Mayor  
City of Atlanta

**William S. Duffey, Jr.**, US Attorney  
Northern District of Georgia

**Nina Hunt**, Deputy US Attorney

**Clara Axam**, Project Director  
The Enterprise Foundation

**Jacquelyn Barrett**, Sheriff  
Fulton County

**Raines Carter**, City Solicitor  
City of Atlanta

**Sharon Collins**, Chair  
Mechanicsville Civic Association

**Douglas Dean**, State Representative  
State of Georgia

**Jocelyn Dorsey**, Director of Public Affairs  
WSB-TV Channel 2

**Renee Glover**, Executive Director  
Atlanta Housing Authority

**Kevin Eccles**, Program Director  
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

**The Honorable Paul Howard**, DA  
Fulton County Judicial Circuit

**Deborah James**, Vice-President  
Mechanicsville Ministerial Alliance

**Tara Perry**, General Manager  
American Red Cross of Metro Atlanta

**Richard Pennington**, Chief of Police  
City of Atlanta

**The Honorable William Riley**, Chief Judge  
Atlanta Municipal Court

**Dr. Arletta T. Brinson**, Executive Director  
Office of Student Programs and Services  
Atlanta Public Schools

**Truman Tolefree**, Director of Parks  
City of Atlanta Bureau of Parks, Recreation  
and Cultural Affairs

**Michael Ferguson**, Special Agent in Charge  
Drug Enforcement Agency

**Helen Jenkins**, Chairperson  
Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association

**Byron D. Amos**, President  
Vine City Civic Association

## Prevention Through The Arts Adds Color to Dunbar Center

Prevention through the Arts provides constructive and engrossing activities which encourage youth to discover their own artistic abilities keep them on the right path, introduce them to options previously unknown to them preventing them from criminal involvement. Atlanta's Prevention through the Arts is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office of Weed and Seed and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. This initiative puts together alliances of local Atlanta artists who have expressed an interest in volunteering their time to beautify Atlanta's neighborhoods and educate its children. Projects have included production of "Pittsburgh's Little Book" published by the Casey Foundation, and the creation and painting of murals at the Pittman and Dunbar Safehavens.



The latest work of art was unveiled this summer by the Bureau of Cultural Affairs under the direction of Tiffani Bryant, Prevention Through the Arts Program Director and lead artist Daw'u. Daw'u's challenge was to transform two slabs of concrete that partially enclose a walkway from the back exit of the gymnasium at The Dunbar Neighborhood Center in Mechanicsville with the help of children attending Camp Best Friends. These particular slabs of concrete had been covered with graffiti for quite some time and had become an eyesore. Daw'u set up shop and directed the youth in painting an amazing mini-mural on the walls. The mural consists of African inspired masks side by side on a black background. This project has remained in tact and is an object of admiration to the entire community.

This winter, Prevention Through the Arts will participate in the Keep Students in School (K.S.I.S.) initiative at Parks Middle School.

On July 23, 2002 in the courtroom of Chief Judge William Riley of the Atlanta Municipal Court, eight men and women from Atlanta Weed & Seed targeted communities were sworn in as members of the City of Atlanta's very first Restorative Community Board.



## Restorative Board News

One and a half years later, the members of this board, comprised of residents from Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh, have made considerable progress. The board has been very effective in working closely with residents, victims, and offenders. The extra eyes and ears on the streets of the Restorative Board's neighborhoods has garnered praise from residents. Still in its early stages, the Atlanta Weed & Seed Restorative Community Board is on the right track and will continue to make a difference in these communities.

Chief Judge Riley's creation of eight new divisions of Community Court early this fall will allow for the court system to share the services and resources that were unavailable in the past to needy Weed & Seed community residents.

This summer United States Attorney William Duffey announced the approval of a Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) funding expanding the Restorative Board. A newly formed Vine City Weed & Seed Restorative Board will be managed by Mrs. Zeda Stanley Sartor. The Mechanicsville/Pittsburgh Community Weed & Seed Restorative Board will be coordinated by Mr. Courtney L. Davenport. Mr. Davenport is a graduate of Georgia State University and Morehouse College and earned degrees in Biology and Psychology. Previously he served as an intern with the Georgia State University Neighborhood Collaborative Atlanta Project under the leadership of Executive Director Doug Greenwell assigned to assist the Mayor's Office of Weed and Seed with the evaluation process.

The Mechanicsville/Pittsburgh Restorative Board meets on Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm in the new Fulton County Juvenile Justice Center at 395 Pryor Street (& Fulton). For more information about the board, contact **Mr. Davenport** and **Mrs. Sartor** at 404/865-8172.



Truancy has long been considered a "gateway" crime that can lead to more serious offenses. The Keep Students in School (K.S.I.S.) initiative is a pilot program, developed to deter truant behavior. Upon the completion of Phase I of the initiative, the K.S.I.S. committee (comprised of representatives from the Mayor's Office of Weed and Seed, Jones-Day Law Firm, Communities In Schools, Atlanta Public Schools, the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, the Atlanta Police Department, and Georgia State University Police) evaluated the impact made during the school year. The Atlanta Hawks have been instrumental in providing incentives to students meeting their goals. The decision was made to implement the "village" approach in addressing the needs of a targeted group of children.

This school year, Phase II identified fifty students as the beneficiaries of the incentive based program. The students have been apprised of the K.S.I.S. rules and regulations as well as the rewards and consequences that have been made available to them. A calendar of events was established by the committee and shared with the students during the initial K.S.I.S. orientation session. K.S.I.S. would like to encourage all affiliated youth to continue to strive towards excellence. Remember... only those who satisfy the K.S.I.S. requirements will be eligible to participate in a very special year-end activity.



**K.S.I.S.  
Kick-Off  
Parks Middle School**



## Community Youth Wins National Poster Contest Grand Prize

Mayor Shirley Franklin and United States Attorney William Duffey presented Mechanicsville resident Articia Taylor with a personal computer, compliments of the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Executive Office of Weed and Seed.

Articia and her mother Alicia Taylor were all smiles as she accepted her prize for being the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Executive Office for Weed and Seed National Poster Contest's 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade category. The theme of this year's poster contest was "How Weed & Seed Has Changed My Neighborhood." In describing her winning work of art, Articia explains that the roots of evil and bad things are trying to kill the beautiful yellow flower, which is represents the good things Atlanta Weed and Seed has planted and implemented in her neighborhood. The beautiful yellow flower prevails and overtakes the weeds, much like Atlanta Weed & Seed has done in Mechanicsville.



Articia's Winning Smile!

Articia is a very talented and well-rounded 14-year old 8<sup>th</sup> grader who attends W.L. Parks Middle School in the Pittsburgh community. When asked of her goals and aspirations, Articia answered without hesitation, "To be an Artist and a Computer Engineer". Her hobbies directly reflect her aspirations - drawing and playing computer games! Articia is well aware of Atlanta Weed & Seed's role in her community. She has participated in many Weed & Seed sponsored events and credits Weed & Seed with making noticeable changes in Mechanicsville.

Articia credits her art teacher Ms. Winfrey-Moore with keeping her artistically involved. Everyone at Parks Middle School knows and supports Articia's special talent. When the Steering Committee surprised her with the computer she exclaimed, "Now I can do my homework and research at home instead of depending on using the school and library's computers!"

**GOOD JOB ARTICIA! ATLANTA WEED & SEED IS SUPER PROUD OF YOU!**

## News Flash...

*THE PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED THEIR "TERRIBLE 24" CAMPAIGN AND SO FAR HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EXPOSING NEGLIGENT LANDLORDS AND HOME OWNERS.*

*MECHANICSVILLE'S YOUTH CAME TOGETHER AT "TEEN TALK," A FORUM PUT TOGETHER BY THE MECHANICSVILLE CIVIC ASSOCIATION (MCA) AND THE MECHANICSVILLE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION (MYLA). TEENS EXPRESSED THEIR COMMUNITY CONCERNS, DISCUSSED ISSUES SURROUNDING THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEARNED ABOUT BILLS AND LAWS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUTH.*

*PARKS MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERATURE TEACHER CHARLES BENJAMIN PENN, JR. WAS NAMED ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' "TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2003". CONGRATULATIONS MR. PENN!*

*CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PITTMAN/PERKERSON PANTHERS & THE DUNBAR BRONCOS CHEERLEADING SQUADS FOR FINISHING ON TOP IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA BUREAU OF RECREATION'S 2003 YOUTH CHEERLEADER CHAMPIONSHIP.*



Atlanta Weed & Seed is proud to announce that the community of Vine City is being considered by the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Executive Office for Weed and Seed as Atlanta's next officially recognized site. Atlanta Weed & Seed Director Karen Rogers and Seed Coordinator Tangee Allen worked closely and tirelessly with Vine City's stakeholders, gathering and compiling required documentation and logistical information for submission. Weed & Seed will compliment the Project Safe Neighborhood and Homicide initiatives currently active in the Vine City, English Avenue, Washington Park and Booker T. Washington communities.

A special thanks to the following contributors who were instrumental in the application process: Councilman Ivory Young, Byron Amos, Carrie Salvary, Greg Hawthorne, John Carter, Linda Adams, Tillman Ward, Dr. Leah Creque, Allyson Parham, Urban Collage, Fulton County Health Department, City of Atlanta Department of Planning and Community Development, the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, The Atlanta Police Department, The United States Attorney's Office, The Vine City Civic Association, Georgia State University Neighborhood Collaborative, The Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, and The Atlanta Housing Authority.

## A Night To Remember

On October 2nd, the City of Atlanta ended "Older Atlantian's Month 2003" with style as Mayor Franklin hosted the 2003 Senior Citizen's Ball, "A Night to Remember". The Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta served as "party central" for over 3,000 well-dressed senior citizens who reside in the City of Atlanta. Occupying two of the Hyatt's largest ballrooms, Atlanta's seniors enjoyed a three course meal, door-prizes and entertainment. Seniors dining in the Centennial Ballroom danced and sang along to the hits of their day performed live by "The Peachtree Strutters". Those dining in the Grand Ballroom enjoyed music played by radio personalities Si Man and DJ Hercurock from Classic Soul 102.5 fm.

Thank you to Chairperson Rose Dawson and the Office of the Mayor, who did an outstanding job of coordinating the activities. Also thanks to MARTA and Greyhound Bus Lines for providing many of the guests with ground transportation.

October 2, 2003 was definitely...

*a night to remember!*  
*For Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh Seniors*



## Pittsburgh Community Digs Hands On Atlanta Day

Hands On Atlanta Day proved to be very productive in the Pittsburgh Community this year. On Saturday, October 3, 2003, the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association (PCIA) used Hands On Atlanta Day to break ground on their community garden. After raised planter beds (designed especially to accommodate the community's senior citizens) were hauled into place, the transformation of the plot of land beside the PCIA's new office space on Arthur Street began. The planter beds were constructed from railroad ties donated by The Home Depot's Buckhead Store.

Garden Talk



Mayor Franklin Lends a hand

After visiting Gideon's Elementary School's scheduled Hands On Project, Mayor Shirley Franklin stopped by the garden project and jumped right in. She dug holes and helped plant decorative shrubbery along the front of the garden, and chatted with residents. Approximately 20 members of the community pitched in. The Graphics Arts Department of Parks Middle School designed a beautiful sign marking "The Pittsburgh Community Garden". **Many hands were on Pittsburgh that Saturday helping to make yet another neighborhood's dream a reality!**

## Dr. Arletta T. Brinson~Atlanta Public Schools

### Steering Committee Corner



Dr. Arletta Brinson

Dr. Arletta Brinson is an Atlanta native, attended Luther Judson Price High School and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Spelman College. She received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Georgia State University.

Her career path as an educator has included being an Atlanta Public Schools teacher, School Psychologist and Director of Psychological Services for Fulton County Schools. Currently, she is Executive Director of the Office of Student Programs and Services for Atlanta Public Schools overseeing Student Programs and Services; Student Placement, Student Records, Student Support Team, Program for Exceptional Children, Psychological Services, Family Involvement, Truancy, Counseling, Homeless, Health Services and Social Work. She has served as a consultant to various

organizations such as Aid to Imprisoned Mothers (AIM) and Rehabilitation Exposure Incorporated.

Dr. Brinson has many professional affiliations and has presented at various conferences. Her civic activities are many; however, she is most proud of being a founding board member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Respite Services, which provides services to disabled individuals. She has received many commendations including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Black Psychologists, a testament to her servant-leader spirit.

Atlanta Weed & Seed is honored and delighted to welcome Dr. Arletta Brinson to the Steering Committee. Her knowledge of youth development and achievement will be essential in implementing prevention, intervention, treatment strategies for Atlanta Weed and Seed.



## Sharon Collins~Mechanicsville Civic Association

Sharon Collins has been a member of the Atlanta Weed & Seed Steering Committee since 1996. This native Atlantan graduated from George Washington Carver High School and went on to study at The Atlanta Christian College in Fairburn, GA.

Ms. Collins is well known and adored in Mechanicsville, the community she has lived in her entire life. This woman of numerous accomplishments, honors and accolades currently holds the position of President of the Mechanicsville Civic Association, and has been a member since 1985. Presently, she is a board member of Southside Medical Center and of New Leaf, an organization that gives cars to working women in need. She also serves on the City of Atlanta's License and Review Board, and past chair of NPU-V.

Sharon Collins has been civically active since the 70's and has been an integral part of the Atlanta Weed & Seed Steering Committee. Since her induction seven years ago, she has played a major role in helping implement the Weed & Seed Strategy in Mechanicsville. She has kept the Weed & Seed Office abreast of any and all activity in the neighborhood, and has taken the lead on neighborhood related issues many times. Ms. Collins has also been a member of the Atlanta Weed & Seed Delegation representing her home town at several National Weed & Seed Conventions across the United States.

She credits Weed & Seed with helping rid her community of drugs and making residents feel safe to go outside.

Ms. Collins has helped so many people in her community in so many ways. She wears many

hats in her neighborhood, one of the largest ones being that of "mother". During neighborhood activities, the youth of Mechanicsville flock to Ms. Collins, always offering to lend a helping hand. It is quite remarkable to witness the love and respect she receives from Mechanicsville's residents young and old.

Ms. Collins likes to quote her mentor, the late Mrs. Rosa Burney, who said "Every knock is a boost and every rock is a stepping stone."

Atlanta Weed & Seed is extremely pleased to have Ms. Sharon Collins as a member of our team.



Sharon Collins

# Intensive Surveillance Officer Program Hi-Lites

## Third Annual Graduation Ceremony

The Intensive Surveillance Officer (ISO) Program is a component of the City of Atlanta's Weed and Seed Program, managed by the Office of the Mayor in collaboration with Fulton County Juvenile Court and The State of Georgia's Children and Youth Coordinating Council, providing intensive intervention services to children who are adjudicated delinquent reducing the likelihood that they will return to court.

On July 30, 2003, The Atlanta Weed and Seed ISO Program honored 28 youth who successfully completed all of the program's requirements at its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual graduation ceremony. Mayor Shirley Franklin invited all of the graduates up to the podium to look each of them in the eye and tell them personally, how proud she was of them for turning their lives around with the help of Weed & Seed and Fulton County Juvenile Court. Judge Nina Hickson also congratulated the youth and reiterated the importance of the Fulton County and City of Atlanta collaboration.

There were an abundance of Juvenile Court Judges and Probation Staff in attendance, as well as proud family members and friends of the graduates. Emotional testimonies from parents of current and former probationers touched everyone in the room.

After the certificates of completion were given out, everyone enjoyed a bar-b-que feast prepared by Pedestal Affairs Caterers.

## Leadership Conference

From June 10 thru June 13, 2003, two Atlanta Weed & Seed ISO youth spent 3 days and nights on the campus of Emory University with approximately 250 other high school students at the American Red Cross Youth Leaders Conference for High School Students. The objectives of the annual conference are:

- \* To support the enhancement of confidence and competence in youth through personal development and skill-building
- \* To nurture community mindedness through service learning experiences
- \* To increase knowledge about safety and conflict management through exercises focused on identifying danger and creating and maintaining peace
- \* To strengthen the roles and responsibilities of youth in their communities.

These youth did Atlanta Weed & Seed and the City of Atlanta proud, as they experienced new things, learned a lot, participated in engaging teen dialogue and making new friends from across the state. They were especially impressed by Emory's campus and the college atmosphere. Atlanta Weed & Seed would like to thank The American Red Cross for inviting a total of 8 Weed & Seed Teens to participate in their very informative and fun conference.

## College Freshman

Two-years ago, Naeemah McKee was dismissed from the Weed and Seed Intensive Surveillance Officer Program. She remained in constant contact with the officers even though she was no longer part of the program. Naeemah graduated from South Atlanta High School and was accepted to Tuskegee University this fall on a partial scholarship majoring in Business. Weed & Seed and many others applaud Naeemah for her courage, will and determination to change her life and for being a positive example that hard work does pay off. Her heart felt testimony at the graduation was appreciated by all in attendance. Assistant United States Attorney Sheila Arnum presented Naeemah with an Outstanding Achiever Award from the Office of the United States Attorney of the Northern District of Georgia. Sheila is a mentor and positive role model to Naeemah.

## ISO Changes Youth's Life

Lynette Porter, a former ISO participant credits Officer Darrell Dixon with "saving her life". According to Lynette, Darrell Dixon went that extra mile to assist with keeping her on the right track. She was faced with a great deal of issues and on occasion associated with the wrong crowd who demonstrated unacceptable and dangerous behavior. Officer Dixon felt she needed to be moved to a better environment in order to truly turn her life around. Approximately a year ago, with the assistance of Fulton County Juvenile Court, Lynette was accepted to Job Corps in Lexington, Kentucky. She has graduated from high school, plans to enter a trade school and is engaged to be married. Lynette feels very blessed to have participated in the ISO program that changed her life.

## Newly Renovated Landmark Receives Urban Facelift

In the early 1920's, upon the request of Mrs. Carrie Badger Pittman, Clark University, the Atlanta Board of Education, and the Freedom Aid Society donated land for a new elementary school. Constructed in 1922, the school was named after Clark University's first African-American President, Greek and Latin professor, Dr. William Henry Croghan. The Croghan School was one of few schools in the City of Atlanta that African-American children were allowed to attend.

The academic year 1922 - 1923 marked the first for The Croghan School. The school provided many services for community residents. After regular school hours, the campus was used for various recreational and sporting activities. In the evenings, academic and vocational classes were offered to adults. The community benefited immensely from the services offered by the school.

Sadly, in 1979, The Croghan School closed it's doors after 57 years of assistance to the residents of one of the oldest communities in the City of Atlanta.



After remaining dormant for 23 years, crime escalated and the building faced multiple code violations. Escaping the wrecking ball, the Pittsburgh community finally was able to bring this stately historic landmark back to life.

Under the guidance of The Atlanta Development Authority and Pimslers-Hoss Architects, Inc., construction began in May of 2002 on an urban living complex to be named The Croghan School Apartments on the site of the old Croghan School. The Croghan School Apartments opened it's doors to residents in May of 2003. The original school building has been fully renovated into 43 beautiful loft apartments. Two new buildings, constructed directly behind the original school, house an additional 62 brand new apartments. The school auditorium is available to residents as well as community organizations. A workout facility will be complete by January 2004. An allotted amount of apartment space has been made available for Pittsburgh's Senior Citizens and tax credits offered to all who qualify.

The residents of Pittsburgh are thrilled that this major piece of neighborhood history has been restored and not wrecked!

There is still space available. Call for leasing information at

**404/614-0808**



## Atlanta Police Department COMMUNITY POLICING

### National Night Out

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local crime prevention initiatives, strengthen community-police partnerships, and **send a clear message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.** On August 5, 2003, Investigator Albritton, Officer Charles and Officer Gaston attended the Mechanicsville/McDaniel-Glenn National Night Out where plenty of food, fun, and school supplies were handed out to the children. This event was organized by Adrienne Jenkins of The Lane Company. Officers Charles and Gaston spoke to children about basic safety issues from crossing the street to locking doors behind themselves. Overall it was a great day for all!



### Junior Police Academy

On July 18, the Atlanta Police Academy, in collaboration with the Atlanta Weed & Seed Unit, hosted a Junior Police Academy. Nine children were selected by Mechanicsville residents to represent their community at the Atlanta Police Training Academy. The Weed & Seed Unit provided



transportation for the youth who spent the day interacting with police recruits and academy staff personnel. The youth participated in physical fitness competition, enjoyed great food at the cook out and all participants were honored during the closing awards ceremony. The youth came away from this experience with a different perspective of what it means to be a law enforcement agent.

### Summer Baseball Camp

The Weed & Seed Unit hosted its first annual summer baseball camp during the week of July 28-August 1. The camp was held at Perkerson Park and the Dunbar Neighborhood Center. There were 80 campers from the Mechanicsville and Pittsburgh communities. Camp partners included the Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta Fire Department Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, Mechanicsville Civic Association and the Enterprise Foundation. The campers were taught baseball fundamentals in the morning and taken on mini field trips each afternoon. The field trips included visits to the King Center and Sci-Trek Museum. On the final day at the awards ceremony, each camper received a trophy from Assistant Atlanta Police Chief Dreher and a baseball, compliments of the Atlanta Braves.



### Youth Fest

On July 18, City Councilman C.T. Martin hosted his 13<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Fest at Wilson Mill Park. Youth Fest provides an array of activities which are geared towards strengthening and improving lines of communication with youth in the community. The objective is to revitalize an interest in the community and to recognize the rich resources which surround residents. Youth Fest focuses on drug awareness, health screenings, self-esteem building, fire safety, education, teen pregnancy prevention, recreation and talent in one fun filled day of activities. The Weed & Seed Unit was present with the Mobile Community Outreach Police Sub-Station (MCOPS) permitting residents to climb aboard and check out the features of the City of Atlanta "Police Station



On



## DUNBAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION HARD WORK PAYS OFF

The Community Learning Collaborative in Mechanicsville has much to celebrate. Over the past few years, the staff and families of Dunbar have been striving to make positive changes for students. The school, with the support of the community, The Enterprise Foundation, has introduced a number of improvements, including programs to enhance literacy and learning. Change is never easy, but everyone, including parents, teachers and students, have worked extremely hard. The good news is...all the hard work is paying off.

Every Spring, fourth graders in every school across the state take the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). This test is used to measure how well students are generally achieving in school. Dunbar's scores from last spring prove that Dunbar is on the move! In every subject area, Dunbar's scores improved from the previous year.

- \* From Spring 2002 to Spring 2003, the percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders meeting or exceeding Reading standards went up from 46% to 56%.
- \* The percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders meeting or exceeding Language Arts standards climbed from 37% to 48%.
- \* The percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders meeting or exceeding Math standards jumped from 17% to 39%.

Further, scores from the state writing test given to 5<sup>th</sup> graders also show significant improvement. The percentage of 5<sup>th</sup> graders scoring at the highest levels moved from 63% to 74%.

To look at these gains over one year does not really give a complete picture. You can see the real size of the accomplishment when you compare the most recent scores with scores from spring 2000. In that time, there was a 22 percentage point gain in Language Arts, a 22 percentage point gain in math and a 30 percentage point gain in reading. In some areas, the rate of improvement was about the same or greater than the average rate of improvement for Atlanta Public Schools. Of course, numbers never really give the human side of the story. If you visit the school and speak to the students and teachers, or look at the quality work on the school's walls, you will see a higher level of energy being devoted to student achievement and learning. Dunbar's students are excited to share what they know and they dream of bright futures. The hard work is not over yet, though. Dunbar aims to continue improving, and Principal Corliss Davenport says she is "confident that Dunbar's test scores will soar in the next year."

Parents and families are also a key element to Dunbar's success. Parents and school staff and volunteers have united to work together through the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This year, the Dunbar PTA boasts an amazing 230 dues-paying members. A new program called Family Night welcomes family participation at the school. Each month, the school hosts an evening for families and staff to come together to enjoy fun, educational games and food. Over 90 people came to the first Family Night in September. During the last week in October, students celebrated being drug-free during Red Ribbon Week. The highlight of the week was a parade on October 30<sup>th</sup>, which featured radio personalities from v-103 -fm and loads of fun. The Enterprise Foundation and Dunbar Elementary School's "hard work is truly paying off"!



## Mechanicsville LIFE, Inc.

Mechanicsville LIFE (Leading Improvements For Everyone), Inc. is a non-profit corporation serving the Mechanicsville community through grass roots initiatives that support housing, banking and finance, economic development, and job training for low to moderate income residents. This agency was incorporated in 2001 as a Georgia non-profit corporation aimed at assisting charitably within the Mechanicsville community. This organization has raised approximately \$40,000 from the Mechanicsville Civic Association, corporate and private donors. Mechanicsville LIFE, Inc. manages a **Community Loan Fund** for community based businesses and **Technology Resource Grants** for Mechanicsville's residents. To date five, Community loans ranging from \$1,200 to \$10,000 have been awarded and twenty Technology Resource Grants have been awarded to residents. So, if you or a friend or family member in Mechanicsville has a community based business, you may qualify for a loan. If you are a resident of this community who has recently purchased new computer/technology equipment, you may qualify for a \$250 reimbursement. If you are interested in learning more about these fabulous opportunities please contact **Ms. Dwanda Farmer** at 404-222-0830.



Mechanicsville's National Night Out



Pittsburgh's Unity Supper 2003

Mechanicsville  
Basketball Court Dedication & Health Fair

18th Annual Pittsburgh Community Reunion 2003

Intensive Surveillance Officer's Program  
2003 GraduatesNaeemah McKee  
First ISO Program  
participant to attend college

14th Annual Mechanicsville Reunion



## LAW ENFORCEMENT ZONE 3 UPDATE

### Mechanicsville

#### McDaniel-Glenn Apartments:

After many complaints from residents of McDaniel-Glenn Apartments regarding open air drug activity, one of many suspects was arrested and found with 75 individual bags of marijuana in his possession.

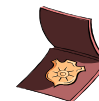
#### City View High Rise:

Information was given to the Weed & Seed Unit that narcotics were being sold at the City View High Rise. The Unit worked closely with management which resulted in a search warrant being executed. During the execution of the warrant at apartment #301, suspects were processing crack cocaine for distribution in and around the apartment building. The residents were arrested and evicted by management in an effort to protect all residents at City View High Rise.

### Pittsburgh

#### 1040 Garibaldi St. #A:

Mario Williams is a suspected major narcotics dealer in the Pittsburgh Community. When he was served with a warrant, and at the time of his arrest, the Weed & Seed Unit found 3.5 ounces of crack cocaine and a handgun in his possession. The Weed & Seed Unit is working with the Fulton County DA's Office, under the leadership of Paul Howard, on creative ways of increasing sentencing for suspects with multiple drug arrests and weapons charges.



## F.Y.I.

### SAVE THE DATE

The next meeting of  
Atlanta Weed & Seed  
Steering Committee will  
be on

**Thursday Dec. 18th**  
from

**12 pm to 4 pm**

In training rooms A & B  
Of the Romae T. Powell  
Juvenile Justice Center  
395 Pryor Street  
(Pryor & Fulton Streets)  
Call 404/330-6086  
for details

## ALSO PLEASE NOTE

### Atlanta Weed & Seed new email addresses:

Karen Rogers: [Kerogers@AtlantaGa.gov](mailto:Kerogers@AtlantaGa.gov)

Tangee Allen: [Tallen@AtlantaGa.gov](mailto:Tallen@AtlantaGa.gov)

Hillary Francais: [Hfrancais@AtlantaGa.gov](mailto:Hfrancais@AtlantaGa.gov)

Visit The Atlanta Weed & Seed Website @ [www.AtlantaGa.gov/deptmayor/weedandseed](http://www.AtlantaGa.gov/deptmayor/weedandseed)

THE CITY OF ATLANTA HAS  
LAUNCHED ITS  
**BRAND NEW WEBSITE**  
[www.AtlantaGa.gov](http://www.AtlantaGa.gov)

*Amani ~ Shalom ~ Salam ~ Paz*

*Peace*

*On earth, good will towards men*

*Atlanta Weed & Seed*

*Wishes you a Safe*

*and*

*Happy Holiday Season*

*and*

*a Prosperous 2004!*

City of Atlanta  
Mayor's Office of Weed and Seed  
Shirley Franklin, Mayor  
Lynnette Young, COO  
Karen Rogers, Director

Tangee Allen, Seed Coordinator  
Hillary-Brooke Francais, Special Projects Coordinator

#### Intensive Surveillance Officer's Staff

Joyce Wright, Office Manager  
Shoune Lawton, ISO  
Chebito Swain, ISO  
Darrell Dixon, ISO  
Seed Line: (404) 330-6086

Atlanta Police Department  
APD Weeding Unit  
Police Chief Richard Pennington  
Asst. Police Chief Alan Dreher  
Deputy Chief Pete Andresen  
Major J.E. Sellers  
Lieutenant R.L. Browning  
Sergeant J. Durant  
Sergeant S. Gibbs  
Investigator N. Albritton  
Investigator C. Herbert  
Investigator J. Longshore  
Investigator D. Ricks  
Officer S. Charles  
Officer T. Gaston  
Weed Hotline: (404) 853-4285